IT'S JUST, I STILL...
SETSU, HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE I ARRIVED IN LABYRINTH TOWN.
SQU WK
SQU WK
SQU WK
Should we investigate?
I've never seen birds flock like that before dawn!
Is this an omen of a natural disaster?
Water
THERE'S SO MUCH I DON'T KNOW ABOUT LIFE IN TOWN-
SO MANY SURPRISES AND CHALLENGES
BUT I'M REALLY ENJOYING EVERY DAY WITH THE OTHER GIRLS.

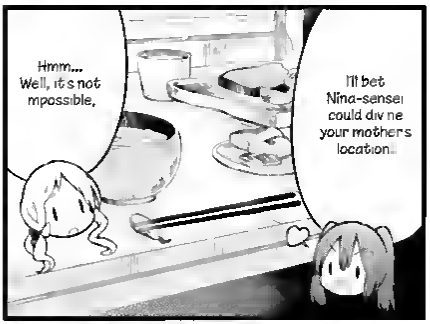
Oh, no problem.
Have some tea
Night patrol? You mean you were on the job all night?
You're Tatsumi-ya's girl— Kon, was it?
Thank you for your hard work.

TL Note. "Pervert and Monkey"

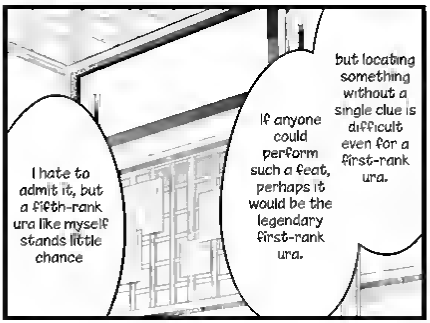
Really?
It's my job to aid citizens in need and all.
So you're looking for your mother?
I'd be willing to help, if I can.
Your futon's already cold by dawn.
By the way, Chiya-chan, where did you go so early in the morning?
You've been doing it every day lately.
Oh, actually...
I dunno.
To start with, what's her name?
HUH?
You were looking for your mother?!
Nothing!
CONFIDENTLY
Her age? Distinguishing features?
Anything at all that you know?
I thought searching would be easier before dawn when fewer people are around
I kinda thought I'd find her as soon as I arrived in Labyrinth Town,
but I had no idea there were so many people here.
Saku-chan!
SLURP
Ahh
I'll never get tired of Nino's miso soup.
There goes my motivation.
Nope!
WAIT, YOU HONESTLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING?!
SCARY PERSON
DUBIOUS PERSON
Really?
WELL SURE. YOU'LL ONLY MEET DUBIOUS OR SCARY PEOPLE AT THAT HOUR

Oh!
There there
Of course! If there ever was a time for divination, it's this!

K-Koume. Calm down!
STRETCH
No need to be so harsh
Wahh
How do you expect to find someone when you don't know their name or face?!


Hmm... Well, it's not impossible.
I'll bet Nina-sensei could divine your mother's location...

Don't forget that Chiya grew up in the mountains.
I mean, hey! She probably thought she could find her mother by tracks or scent!
Um Um
Right, Chiya?


I hate to admit it, but a fifth-rank ura like myself stands little chance
If anyone could perform such a feat, perhaps it would be the legendary first-rank ura.
but locating something without a single clue is difficult even for a first-rank ura.

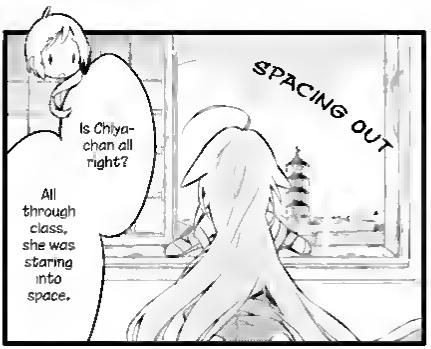
That's just plain silly. Humans can't do that
Are you okay there, Kon?

I'M SORRY FOR ASKING THE IMPOSSIBLE!
Wah!
ONEE-CHAN, GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
TRAIN
clench
I'm sorry... I'm just a teacher too incompetent to help her pupils...
I MUST RETREAT TO THE MOUNTAINS!
Don't go!

ALRIGHT. TAKE IT EASY!
STREEEETCH
...I tried to take to heart your feelings...
Look, I understand how you feel...

Yes, well, she's pretty famous around here.
Captain Saku, you know about the legendary first-rank ura too?
Someone higher than even first-rank ura?
Wait, what's "the legendary first-rank ura"?
Wait, then...
ABOVE THE CLOUDS
Generally speaking, divination is not all-powerful.
Yet they say there is nothing which that first-rank ura cannot see.
Supposedly, not even the invisible escapes her vision.
If I go to First District and ask that first-rank ura,
I'll learn how to find my mom?
She can see the invisible?
That's right.
Namely, the gods of Labyrinth Town that urara believe in.
OH!
First District's out of the question
That's right.
But we're tenth-rank ura. We're not allowed further in than Tenth District.
10
The rumors may or may not be true,
but there's no doubt she's the most powerful urara in all of Labyrinth Town.
WHAT?!
Especially not indecent hussies.
And they rarely accept clients in the first place.
Plus, hiring a first-rank ura costs a whole lot of money

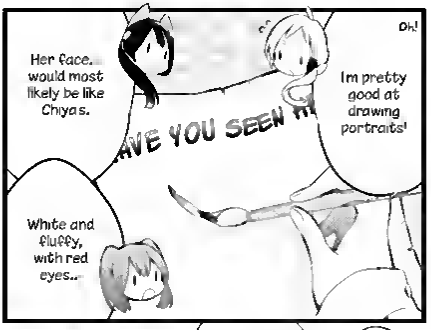
We were just wondering what kind of person your mother was!
PANIC
N-N-NOTHING!
That's all
Oh?


SPACING OUT
Is Chiya-chan all right?
All through class, she was staring into space.

I thought about that a lot when I was little!
Usually before I went to bed!
Id always imagine what she was like!

WHISPER
To find her mother
Perhaps she's still in shock from the conversation this morning.
You mean like detective work?
Is there anything we can do to help?

or maybe she could fly high in the sky like a hawk!
or pretty like a pheasant...
or cool like a wolf.
or quick like a rabbit...
Maybe strong like a bear...


Her face... would most likely be like Chiya's.
Oh!
Im pretty good at drawing portraits!
HAVE YOU SEEN IT
White and fluffy, with red eyes...

Oh, come on! I only thought that when I was little!
Heh-heh
Were we too noisy?
SHE... IS A HUMAN, RIGHT?

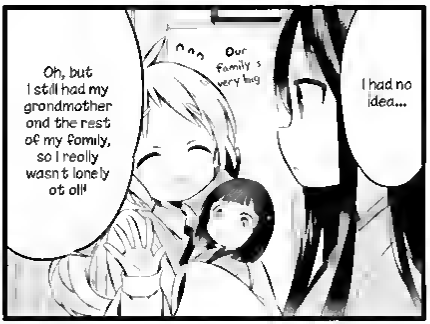
AH!
BA-DUM
Whatcha drawing?
HAVE YOU SEEN HER?
WOOF

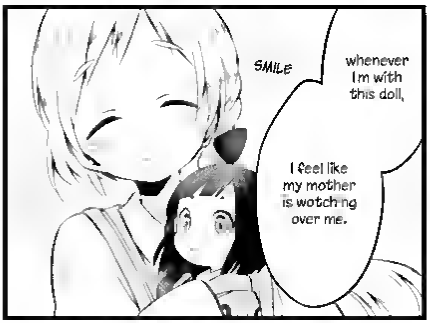
WILDERNESS SURVIVAL!
SPARKLE SPARKLE
We hunted and fished and gathered and ate!
Back in the mountains, it was just me and Setsu, but every day was so much fun!
Mmm
It's a bit of a long story...
You were living with someone in the mountains, weren't you?
Why did you get separated from your mother in the first place?
To me, Setsu was like a teacher, a friend,
and even a mother.
But despite that...
I was raised by a woman named Setsu.
Setsu was a friend of my mom's,
who asked her to take care of me from soon after my birth until I was fifteen.
Maybe it's selfish of me,
wanting to meet my real mother.
N-None?
OH!
NO, THAT'S MATSUK-SAN!
CLIVER CLIVER
CLA-CLACK
I-I DON'T THINK SO AT ALL!
Yeah. Setsu said that was all she knew, too
That was quick!
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE TO KNOW SO LITTLE?!
...HUH? WAS THAT IT?!

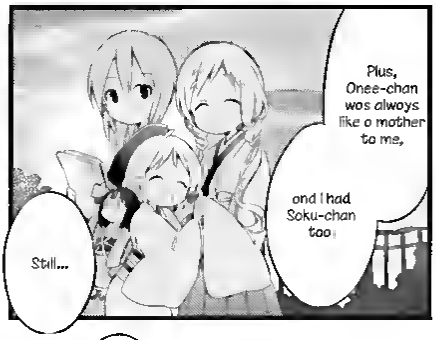
SQUEEZE
...this doll, actually,
is something that my mother left to me.

My mother...
passed away when I was very young
So I also don't really remember my mother's face.

She left it with the wish
that I would grow into a healthy, strong, and kind girl
Maybe that's why, since I was little,


Our family's very long
I had no idea...
Oh, but I still had my grandmother and the rest of my family, so I really wasn't lonely at all!


SMILE
whenever I'm with this doll,
I feel like my mother is watching over me.


Plus, Onee-chan was always like a mother to me,
and I had Soku-chan too.
Still...

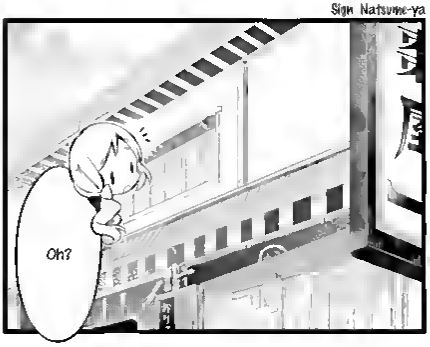
FOND MEMORIES
SHAKE
I'M SCARED I'M SCARED I'M SERIOUSLY SCARED NONO!
In fact, whenever I couldn't sleep at night, I'd find her standing by my pillow, silently watching over me.

even if it's only for a moment,
I'd still want to meet my mother again.

Step: Checkpoint
この先九番地
How careless...
Looks like I was right to keep watch here just in case.
Of course, I'm partly to blame for running my mouth.
Chiya-chan, I'm sure your mother is somewhere in Labyrinth Town wishing for the same thing.
CLATTER
Step: Your Journey North District
However, as a tenth-rank ura, you have no right to pass through this gate
no matter what extenuating circumstances you have.
I assume this morning's conversation prompted this attempt to sneak into First District.
I CAN'T HELP IT.
TA-TUM
I CAN'T JUST WAIT AROUND HERE.
You don't have to let me through.
Look, I'll walk you back to Natsume-ya, so just behave and-
I WANT TO SEE MY MOM!
And where do you think you're going at this time of night?
WAIT WAIT WAIT! THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE!
HOP
I can just as easily jump over myself, so don't worry!
Would the mountain move?
YEAH, YOU ARE!
Bad people that wander at night!
GASP
ONE OF THE DUBIOUS PEOPLE KOUME MENTIONED?!

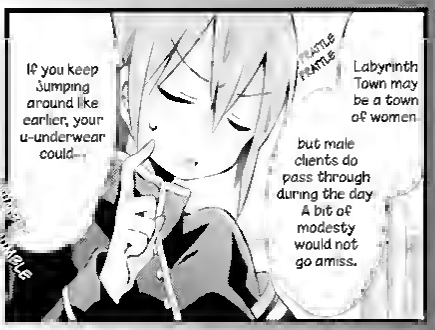
Then...
how am I supposed to find my mom?
sigh
Now you listen carefully here.
If you go past that gate,
I'll have to banish you from town for real.
All this time I've been convinced
that I'd see her as soon as I came to Labyrinth Town.
That's the law of Labyrinth Town.
A first-rank ura- anyone- I don't care.
If they'll help me find my mom, I'll go wherever I have to.
You can even banish me if you want.
The urara in this town take pride in their jobs and their emblems.
That's why they train so hard every day-
so they can someday earn passage through the next gate.
But if I can't see my mother,
then why did I even come to this town?!
I will not allow you to waltz in here
and defile that sacred law.

CAPTAIN SAKU, YOU'RE SO SMART!
LEAP
Watch out!
WAUGH!
In that case,
there's only one way, isn't there?
way?
Of course I hadn't thought of that!
SPARKLE SPARKLE
That's not to say it'll be easy!
Okay, I'll become a first-rank ura!
I know. But I'll do my best!
Just become a first-rank ura yourself.
...Will you?
BRUSH
Then it's a promise.
Then you can freely enter First District and even meet the legendary first-rank ura.
By then, you'll even be wealthy enough to pay the exorbitant fee.
What's more...
If you can keep that promise,
I'll help you as best I can
...Chiya.
I won't have to arrest you that way


Oh?

You know, I've been meaning to ask,
Like your arms and legs
but why do you, you know, reveal so much?

What's this, Saku? I thought you didn't have night patrol yesterday?
Did something come up?
Oh, well..
You know how it is.


Labyrinth Town may be a town of women
but male clients do pass through during the day
A bit of modesty would not go amiss.
If you keep jumping around like earlier, your u-underwear could--
TRATTLE TRATTLE
TRATTLE

OH MY!
Could this perhaps be the so-called "morning after"?
I shouldn't have asked!

Under-wear?

Oh, come now, Saku. It was just a joke, and such a cliché one at that!
JOKE OR NOT, THERE ARE SOME THINGS A GROWN LADY SIMPLY SHOULD NOT SAY, NINA!
They're at it again.
Sigh

CLATTER
KEEP IT DOWN OUT THERE! DO YOU KNOW WHAT HOUR IT IS?!
I'll call the Watch!
HOLD ON! NO! PLEASE, DON'T TELL ME-